



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

Office of Public Information

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EDMUND K. BURKE NAMED SECURITY DIRECTOR FOR STATE'S HALL OF JUSTICE

LANSING, MI, February 20, 2002 – A long-time Michigan State Police official, Edmund K. Burke, has been named Director of Security for the new Michigan Hall of Justice, the Michigan Supreme Court announced today.

Burke, who has nearly 28 years of service with the State Police, was introduced by Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan at a hearing of the Judiciary Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee yesterday. The Supreme Court has requested funding for security personnel for the Hall of Justice, which will open in October 2002. The new building will house the Michigan Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals' Lansing branch, the State Court Administrative Office, Michigan Judicial Institute, and a Learning Center.

“Jurists, court staff, and members of the public will all be using one very highly visible building in the state Capitol,” said Corrigan. “In a post-September 11 world, we have to be keenly aware of the security risks that presents – and to do the best we can to protect the people who will use that building.”

The high court created the Director of Security position for the Hall of Justice after consulting with security experts, Corrigan noted. Burke, Corrigan added, “has a wealth of law enforcement experience. We know the new Hall of Justice presents many security issues, and we are confident that Edmund Burke has the expertise to meet those challenges.”

Burke began his law enforcement career in 1974 as a State Trooper, and in 1979 became personal bodyguard for Michigan Governor William Milliken, moving up through State Police ranks in various divisions. Before accepting the Hall of Justice position, Burke served as Captain and Division Commander of the State Police Fire Marshal Division and was State Fire Marshal from 1999 through February 2002. In that position, he served as a member of the Michigan Anti-Terrorism Task Force. From 1998-1999, Burke was Inspector and Assistant First District Commander, supervising police services at eight State Police posts. From 1997-1998, he served as Inspector and Assistant Commander of the Third District. From 1994-1997, Burke was Assistant Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division. Burke, who received a bachelor's degree from Spring Arbor College, is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia..

Burke's Hall of Justice duties will include assessing the building's security needs. During today's hearing before the House Appropriations Committee, Chief Justice Corrigan stated that the Court has studied security issues for the Hall of Justice and feels strongly about the recommendation for additional funding.

"In asking for this funding, the Court is very mindful of the financial constraints facing state government," said Corrigan. "We would not make this request unless we were convinced it was absolutely necessary."
